Appl. No. 09/879,722 Amdt. Dated June 15, 2004 Reply to Office action of April 5, 2004

PATENT

TRADEN

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

09/879,722

Confirmation No. :

4905

Applicant

Yasufumi Ichikawa

Filed

June 16, 2001

TC/AU

2684

Examiner:

Angelica Perez

Docket No. Customer No.:

33677 116

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JUN 2 3 2004

Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<u>AMENDMENT "A"</u>

Sir:

This amendment is filed in response to the Office action dated April 5, 2004 (paper no. 4). The three month period for responding to the Office action expires on July 5, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application in the following manner

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Robert F. Bodi

Name of Attorney for Appli

Signature of Attorney / Date